

# Fuel for the Fight

**M**aster Sgt. Lawrence Marquez is always on the go. That's good since his mission is to ensure others can also keep moving. And, like the product he provides, he's in high demand. The fuels specialist from Fort Garland, Colo., has deployed six times in the last six years. His experiences have taken him to places like Turkey, Kyrgyzstan and Iraq. But it's his recent deployment to Camp Eggers in Kabul, Afghanistan, that has proven to be the most significant for him.

As part of the first embed-team with the Afghan National Army, the 23-year veteran mentors and teaches young soldiers about dispensing, receiving and accounting for fuel used for equipment, heating and tactical operations. He's also written several lesson plans for the Army, ensuring they could be translated from English to Dari.

"We're helping two nations get back on their feet (after) being ruled by tyrants," Sergeant Marquez said. "We're helping an army with its logistic functions so they can be strong and keep the tyrants at bay."

Amid a threatening environment, this can be a challenge. Mines are often found nearby, so the teams ensure they travel "on the beaten path" when leaving the base.

Despite having to teach in a hut, fight off extreme heat, deal with the dust, and not have running water or electricity for a time, Sergeant Marquez enjoys his duty. He can sense an Army of strong, motivated and courageous soldiers — progress.

— story by Staff Sgt. Phyllis Duff, photo by Master Sgt. Lance Cheung

*"We're helping two nations get back on their feet (after) being ruled by tyrants that don't allow the consensus of the people to help govern their countries."*

Master Sgt. **Lawrence A. Marquez Jr.**  
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Combined Security Transition Command — Afghanistan  
Holloman Air Force Base, N. M.  
Years in Air Force: 23  
Hometown: Fort Garland, Colo.  
Number in Fuels (2FOX1): 4,193